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LUCHESE ACTING BOSS
INDICTED FOR RACKETEERING AND MURDER

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, KEVIN P. DONOVAN, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, announced today that LOUIS DAIDONE, the alleged Acting Boss of the Luchese Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, has been charged in a four-court Superseding Indictment, unsealed today in Manhattan federal court, with racketeering including two homicides.

DAIDONE, 56, was arrested at his home in Brooklyn, New York, this morning, and will appear be arraigned in Manhattan federal court later today.

According to the Superseding Indictment, DAIDONE participated in the criminal activities of the Luchese Crime Family from the early 1980's up to at least January 2000. DAIDONE is alleged to have served as a Soldier, Acting Capo, Consigliere, and, most recently, Acting Boss of the Family. The

Superseding Indictment charges three separate acts of racketeering in two racketeering (a/k/a "RICO") counts, including the February 1989 murder of Thomas Gilmore and the August 1990 murder of Bruno Facciola. The third racketeering act charges DAIDONE with participating in a long-term, wide-ranging loan sharking conspiracy that involved the making of extortionate loans, the financing of those loans, and the collection of those loans by extortionate means.

Counts Three and Four of the Superseding Indictment charge DAIDONE with being part of conspiracies to make "extortionate extensions of credit," and to collect such extensions of credit. These loan sharking charges are substantially similar to those reflected in the initial Indictment against DAIDONE returned in December 2002.

In 1992, Vittorio "Vic" Amuso, the Boss of the Luchese Crime Family, was tried and convicted on racketeering charges that included the conspiracies to murder Thomas Gilmore and Bruno Facciola, and is now serving a life sentence in federal prison.

DAIDONE faces a maximum sentence of life in prison on each of the two racketeering counts, a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on each of the two loan sharking conspiracy counts, and a \$250,000 maximum fine on each count.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York Police Department in conducting the investigation, and noted that the investigation is continuing.

Mr. COMEY stated: "These new charges, including two homicides, raise the possibility of permanently removing yet another Acting Boss from this crime family. DAIDONE is the third such Acting Boss of the Luchese crime family to be prosecuted by this Office in the last decade. Others who aspire to that position would be well advised to take note of the fates of their predecessors."

Mr. DONOVAN stated: "Today's charges once again demonstrate the extent to which the mob uses violence to enforce discipline within the family. These days, the oath of omerta is more myth than reality, and the prospect of lengthy prison sentences has persuaded many mobsters to cooperate with law enforcement. In desperation, mob leaders have resorted to murder to silence their own people."

Mr. KELLY stated: "These new charges against Louis Daidone stand as another example of our ongoing dedication to rid New York City of organized crime. As acting boss of the Luchese crime family, Daidone oversaw many of its illegal operations, including murder and racketeering. But we've brought him to justice, and I am confident he will pay for his crimes in prison. Our detectives in this multi-agency operation performed their jobs with the highest standard of excellence, and I commend them for their work."

Assistant United States Attorney KARL METZNER is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Superseding Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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